

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument ParkED Field Trip FAQ

The ParkED team here at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument welcomes all teachers and students from across the country (and the world!) to participate in our programs.

Please note that this field trip FAQ is for World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (VALR) only (which includes or is referred to as the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, home of the USS *Arizona* Memorial), and does NOT include tickets to the USS *Bowfin* Submarine, USS *Missouri* Battleship, or Pacific Aviation Museum. Please contact their education departments directly.

What is ParkED? ParkED (Park Education) is the Education Team here at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. We are made up of National Park Service Park Rangers, ParkED Education Specialists & Techs via direct aid from our cooperating association [Pacific Historic Parks](#) and our ParkED Interns from universities around the United States. In 2014 we assisted 653 bona fide educational groups, almost 35,000 learners with their educational pursuits. We can be reached via email at valr_education@nps.gov

What qualifies as an Education Group? The National Park Service (NPS) defines *bona fide* academic/educational groups as accredited academic institutions that can be found via the Department of Education's accreditation website found [here](#).

What if my group does not qualify as a *bona fide* academic/educational group? Do not despair there are still many ways you can obtain tickets for the USS *Arizona* Memorial documentary film and boat ride. Please keep in mind that even if we cannot accommodate your group our Park is free and open to the public, there are no tickets needed to walk the grounds or through the museums. If your group has already contacted a Permitted Transportation provider you can ask them to obtain tickets on your behalf via www.recreation.gov (NPS and ParkED have no control over the price per person fee). You can attempt to obtain tickets on your own via www.recreation.gov but you will have a max of six tickets per reservation and you will need to have multiple purchasers and credit cards available. Last but not least you can come to the Park and with all of your students and request any of the 1,000 walk-in tickets available daily (we do on occasion run out of tickets). You will be offered the first available program time that can accommodate most of the group.

What if I am a Not-For-Profit/ Non-Profit Group? Please read VALR's Memo on Not-For-Profit and Non-Profit Groups. (e.g., Road Scholar, formerly Elderhostel, cultural exchange club's, service and civic groups, fraternal organizations, such as scouts or 4-H clubs, and/or other not-for-profit groups).

What if I am a Tour Company or Destination Management Organization working on behalf of a school? Unfortunately a ticket broker (or DMO), is not an Educational Group and are cannot request

tickets on behalf of education groups. The teacher responsible for the students should be requesting tickets be reserved and provide the necessary justifications. (Management Policies Section 8.2.6.1) This is done for a multitude of reasons. This ensures that they are aware of the procedures, bag policies, visitor expectations, also so that we may be alerted to any medical conditions.

What are your Park Hours of Operations? Our Park opens at 7 am, programs run every 15 minutes (weather permitting), the last program runs at 3 pm and the Park closes at 5 pm. We are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

How far in advance can I need to make a Educational Field Trip Request? Education reservations can be made no more than 12 months in advance. All requests must be sent to the ParkED team at valr_education@nps.gov by filling out our [Online Request A Field Trip Form](#). Please keep in mind that a request is just a request until confirmed by a ParkED team member. In order to allow adequate time to prepare a quality visit, we ask that reservations be made with as much notice as possible. However, if your group doesn't have that much time, we will still do our best to accommodate you. Just let us know ASAP!

What is the cost? There is no cost! Our Park is ***FREE*** and open to the public.

What Days and Times are available for Field Trips? We have set Education Program days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for our 10 am and 11:15 am USS *Arizona* Memorial Documentary Film/ Boat program. If you'd like a time outside of these options, we may be able to help you based on availability. We will not however be able to offer you the use of the Education Classroom or Lanai for lunch storage or activities. Education programs will not be reserved before 10:00 am on any day of the week.

We are a Title I School and cannot afford our bus fees, what can we do? We here are ParkED have a special fund set aside for Hawaii based Title I schools. Our funds are limited so please let us know when you request your field trip that you are in need of assistance. If available ParkED will cover up to \$500 of your bus transportation funds (we do not cover wait time), please contact your school's contracted bus provider and have them contact us at valr_education@nps.gov to verify our financial aid and billing information. **PLEASE NOTE:** The use of these bus funds are contingent upon the ParkED staff performing a classroom pre-site visit, you can also pick the appropriate program offering if your choice from the list below.

Is there a specific education program for my students' grade level? Yes there are! We are so glad you asked. Here at ParkED we are pleased to offer a variety of educational programs for all levels of learners. All of them are free EXCEPT for the USS *Arizona* Memorial Narrated Tour. Please follow the links for specific programming information, Hawaii State Standard & Common Core Standards met by each program. (Links coming soon!)

[Junior Ranger Scavenger Hunt](#), 3rd – 6th grade

Total Program Time Commitment 4 hours
Max Capacity 40 participants

Every Kid in a Park, 4th grade
Total Program Time Commitment 4 hours
Max Capacity 40 participants
Requires Pre-Site Visit, On-Site Field Trip and Post-Site Activity
Includes Bus Funds for Transportation Needs & Every Kid in a Park Digital Pass
(Perfect for those planning trips to the Big Island or Maui!)

The Men of the *Arizona*, 8th – 12th grade
Total Program Time Commitment: 4 hours
Max Capacity 40 participants
Requires Pre-Site Visit, On-Site Field Trip and Post-Site Activity

From Fishponds to Memorials, 9th – 12th grade
Total Program Time Commitment: 4 hours
Max. Capacity 40 participants
Requires Pre-Site Visit, On-Site Field Trip and Post-Site Activity

USS *Arizona* Memorial Narrated Tour, all levels
Total Program Time Commitment: 3.5 hours
Max. Capacity 150, \$3.50 per person per headset
Offered in English, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Chinese, French, German, & Spanish

Pearl Harbor Express, all levels
Total Program Time Commitment: 2.5 hours
Max. Capacity 150

How many people can be in a group? For our dedicated MWF education programs, we can book up to the full capacity of 150 people, depending on availability. Although for most the Education Programs offered above, we have a maximum capacity of 40 participants (teachers, chaperones and students). Please click on the program to see the specifics. **PLEASE NOTE:** We do not reserve tickets for non-school approved guests; school Alumni groups, siblings and/or family members may not participate in school sponsored field trips (with the exception of homeschool groups). Please make sure your requests reflects only those being sponsored by the academic/educational institution or group.

How many chaperones will we need? We recommend a student-to-chaperone ratio of 10:1 or less. The closer you can get to that ratio, the better. All chaperones are expected to closely monitor student behavior, as this is a site that calls for respect and quiet reflection from all visitors, regardless of age you are required to be an active participant and assist in the monitoring of behaviors.

Expectations for Teachers & Chaperones: Because student safety is our paramount concern, students must be supervised at all times while at a school sponsored event. As a teacher or chaperone, ensure that your students become engaged, participate and active learners. Students must stay with you, the teacher/

chaperone, at all times. Teachers/ Chaperones must be mindful of safety concerns, and respond to students' needs. Do not use your cell for phone non-emergency or non-field trip related purposes. Students behavior is your responsibility. School rules related to student behavior apply. You are responsible for student behavior, it is the responsibility of the teacher to discipline a student. Please follow the directions of the docents and guides even if other groups do not.

When should we arrive? Field trips to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center typically last about three hours, not including lunch or time in the bookstore. It's imperative that you arrive at least one full hour before your actual program begins. This will allow adequate time to tour the exhibit galleries *before* your program, which is ideal. If you are not on site at least 60 minutes before your scheduled USS Arizona Memorial program time then your tickets may be released to the general public.

What about lunch? For those visiting during our designated Education Program blocks, storage for lunches may be made available while you're exploring the site, if requested at the time of your original request. If you plan to bring lunches, please let us know so we can notify the security staff and arrange for someone to grant you access to the building for storage. Lunch bags are all subject to inspection upon arrival, so clear lunch bags are preferred. If we are not made aware of your lunch plans you will be directed to eat outside of the park on the large grassy lawn. We do not allow for special private reservations of the lanai for catered lunches without the use of a permit. There are no tables or chairs on the education lanai, it is picnic style seating. To discuss non-education group permitting please email valr_commerical_services@nps.gov

What should we *not* bring? World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument has a very strict no bag policy. Yes, this policy extends to everyone, teachers & chaperones included. We do however allow *one* modestly sized bag per class. This bag should contain Emergency Release Forms/ Parent Contact information, photo release forms, first aid kits and medicine. Our Security Rangers will direct unauthorized bags to the *Bowfin* Bag Storage where bags can be stored for \$3 cash per bag. While cameras are encouraged, out of respect, the use of cell phones and MP3 players are not permitted during the USS *Arizona* Memorial tour. It's best to ask students to leave those items at home, unless being used as part of a school assignment. Schools and students will not be compensated for lost, damaged or stolen items.

What should we wear? Students should dress for the weather. Sunscreen and comfortable (yet appropriate) clothing is recommended. Closed-toe shoes are easiest for all the walking involved, but they are not required.

May we visit the bookstore? The field trip timeline does not include time spent shopping in the bookstore, but you are welcome to do so! If your school has allotted extra time after the field trip activities are completed, students may visit the bookstore. Please make sure that each group of children is accompanied by an adult.

The Golden Rule (Student Behavior): Please review the following with your students (and chaperones) before your visit:

Treat others how you would want to be treated.

Listen when the ranger, teacher, or chaperone is speaking.

Always stay with your group.

Avoid injuries: do not run or climb on any exhibits at any time.

Do not feed the birds. Human food can make birds sick and cause them to forget to find their own food.

They can bite you, and feeding them often turns them into pests for other visitors.

Most importantly...

Be respectful of the site and other visitors around you. While we understand that students are excited to be out and about on a field trip, students should be reminded that visiting the USS *Arizona* Memorial is no different than visiting Punchbowl or another national cemetery. This is a site where over 900 men are considered to be entombed, and talking at the memorial should be kept to a minimum. There should be no running or shouting at any time during the visit. Depending on the nature of your group, you may even choose to ask students to not speak during the tour, unless they're asking a question related to the site. Then, when they get back to the visitor center, they can get back to their regularly-scheduled programming and activities.

What if I live on the mainland and can not travel to Hawaii for a field trip? Email ParkED at valr_education@nps.gov and ask about our Distance Learning Programs. [Click Here](#), for a list of scheduled programs.

If your education group is interested in filming on site, or laying a wreath at the USS *Arizona* Memorial, offering a musical tribute or performance, holding a ceremony, conducting a demonstration, or similar use, you must obtain a Special Use Permit through [Commercial Services](#).